

which, were it in England, would support its thousands of Wood-Pigeons.

78. *CACCABIS RUFA* (Linn.).

The only time I saw Red-legged Partridge was whilst scrambling over fallen rock in a barren desolate glen at the back of Pic Buderans, say 6000 feet up. A pair of, I think, Bearded Vultures had just passed along the cliff overhead, amidst the silence of all bird-life, and when the glen was relieved of them I caught the chuckling call-note—reminiscent of Suffolk stubbles—from a tumbled scree close at hand. Out came the cock from his crevice, stood erect, stretched his neck and called again, was answered by his mate from some other crevice, and both, spreading their red tails, took wing with a whir.

79. *LAGOPUS MUTUS* (Montin).

A couple of Ptarmigan were burrowing into the edge of the drift upon the top of Pic de Bergons, say 6790 feet, on June 1st. I saw droppings upon the snow elsewhere.

The Capercaillie I did not see. One evening at St. Sauveur I met a heavily-armed young fellow on his way to the pine-forest above Pragnères. He explained his system: he would reach the pines after sunset, lie awake until in the dusk before sunrise he heard "chanter le Coq de bruyère," whereupon he would, &c. As a matter of fact he returned empty-handed, and I was told "que le Coq de bruyère ne chantait pas tous les jours."

VI.—*Additional Notes on Tunisian Birds.*

By JOSEPH I. S. WHITAKER, F.Z.S.*

HAVING this year made another trip in the Regency, and added some interesting specimens to my collection of Tunisian birds, I think it desirable that I should supplement my previous paper with a few more field-notes, and with a list of the species obtained by me this year other than those included in my former list.

* For former notes see 'Ibis,' 1894, p. 78.

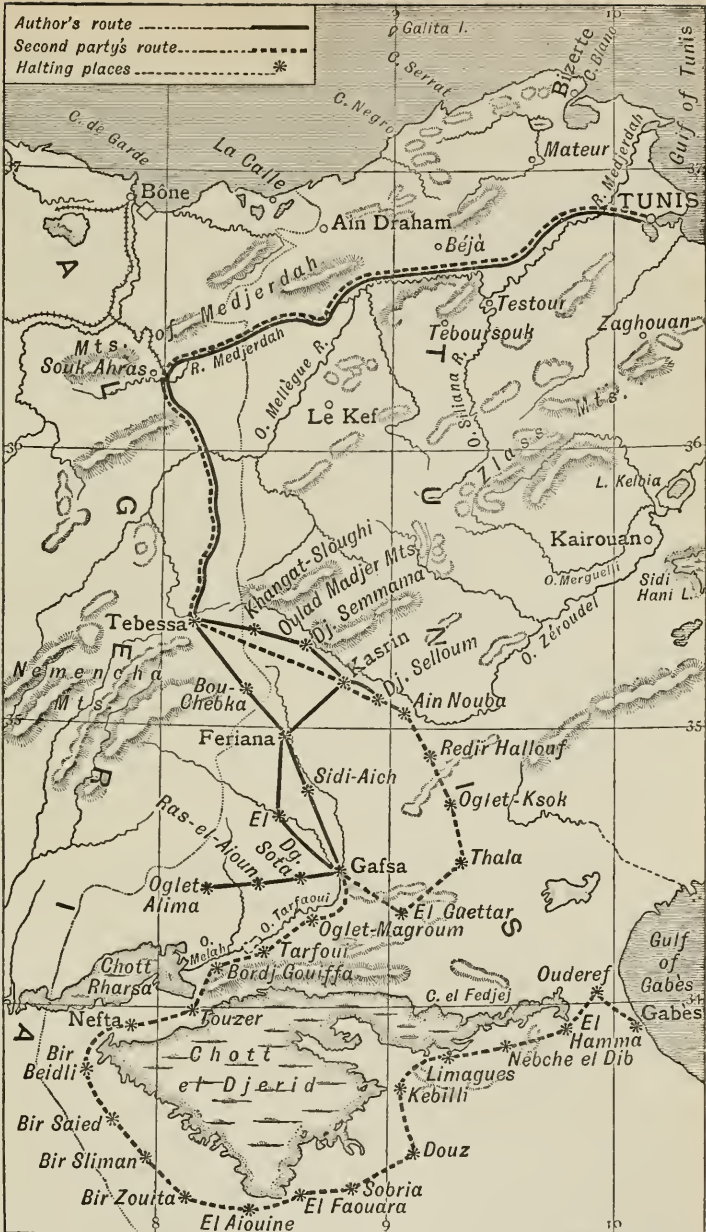
I had intended on this occasion making a more extended journey, visiting the Algerian Sahara first, and then entering the Tunisian territory from the S.W.; indeed, I had already started on this expedition, and was two days' journey beyond Biskra, when a sad loss in my family circle recalled me home. The season being far advanced when I was able to make a fresh start, I finally decided to confine my travels to the country I had already visited last year. I would, however, here mention that I had previously despatched a second party, in charge of a friend, to explore the country immediately south of the Chott Djerid, partly with a view to bird-collecting, although I regret to say the result of their efforts in this particular respect was somewhat disappointing, owing, perhaps, to the counter-attractions of bigger game.

The route I myself took being so nearly that followed by me last year, I propose giving merely a brief outline of my present journey, avoiding, so far as may be possible, any repetition of my previous experiences.

Starting from Tunis on the 24th March, I reached Tebessa the same evening, spent the following day in making up my caravan, and left again on the 26th for Feriana by the southern road *viâ* Bou-Chebka. Here we experienced very cold stormy weather, and were among the clouds the greater part of one day. This was not to be wondered at, perhaps, considering we were at an altitude of over 4000 feet. The cold at night was intense on these high plateaux, ice forming on the pools round our tents. The neighbourhood of Bou-Chebka is a charming park-like country, with woods of Aleppo-pine; and further on among the hills, before descending to Feriana, the scenery is decidedly grand and imposing. Owing to the bad weather, we did not reach Feriana till the 29th March. *En route* from Tebessa we met with the following birds worthy of note, viz. :—*Turdus viscivorus*, *Monticola cyanus*, *Ruticilla mousieri*, *Sylvia subalpina*, *Fringilla spodiogena*, *Loxia curvirostra*, *Corvus tingitanus*, and *Columba palumbus*, besides the ubiquitous Barbary Partridge.

At Feriana I was obliged to discharge my Algerian camel- and mule-drivers, and engage a fresh lot of Tunisians. As a

Author's route -----
 Second party's route
 Halting places * * * * *



MAP OF TUNIS AND EASTERN ALGERIA.

Walker & Bowtell sc.

rule, the Tunisian Arabs are quieter and less pretentious than the Algerians, and without that veneer of civilization and education which is sufficient to spoil, but insufficient to improve the native mind.

Leaving Feriana on the 31st March, *en route* for Gafsa, we took a new road, lately opened, to the west of Sidi-Aich, near which place we made a halt last year, and encamped that evening at Saharidj, close to the ruins of a Roman cistern. The following morning we started for Gafsa, which place we finally reached late in the evening, after a long and somewhat eventful day, one of our party having managed to lose his way in the morning and not turning up until late in the evening. He, however, atoned for the anxiety he had caused me by producing a specimen of the rare Lark, *Chersophilus margaritæ*, which he had been fortunate enough to secure *en route*. The country between Saharidj and Gafsa was particularly rich in bird-life, the abundant winter rains having produced a luxuriant vegetation and filled the streams and rivulets, which, as a rule, are dry in these districts. Besides the above-mentioned *Chersophilus margaritæ*, I secured specimens of *Saxicola aurita*, *Sylvia conspicillata*, *Argya fulva*, *Lanius dealbatus*, and of six other species of Larks. I may here observe that I was particularly fortunate this year with the Larks, getting examples of eleven or twelve different species in all.

At Gafsa, according to previous arrangement, I met my second party, just returned from the south of the Chott Djerid, and received from my friends an interesting account of their journey and doings since we parted company.

The 2nd of April was ushered in by a storm exceeding in intensity any previously experienced in Gafsa—at least, such was the opinion of the “oldest inhabitant.” It certainly entirely shattered the belief I had previously entertained in the almost complete immunity from rain that these southern districts are supposed to enjoy. The following day, the weather being fairly fine, we spent some hours in the Gafsa oasis, obtaining a few specimens of small birds, chiefly Warblers and Finches, and devoted the remainder of the

day to sight-seeing in the town and preparing for our next journey. I availed myself of this opportunity to search for nests of the House-Bunting (*Emberiza saharæ*) in the Gafsa Mosque, which seems to be a favourite breeding-haunt of these little birds; but although I found several, some of them apparently almost completely finished, none had eggs in them. The nest of this species is a delicate structure composed of fine bents, neatly interwoven, and lightly lined with wool or hair, and is always placed in some crevice in a wall. The males were now in full song.

On the 4th April we all left Gafsa, I and my party travelling westward towards Oglet Alima, thence to return to Gafsa, and then to proceed northwards to Kasrin; while my second party went in an easterly direction to Thala, thence to travel north, and meet me again at Kasrin. On the evening of the 4th April, after a very hot journey across the Gafsa plain, we camped at the foot of the Djebel Sota, and the following morning left again for Ras-el-Aioun. Just before starting I had the good luck to secure specimens of the White-rumped Swift (*Cypselus affinis*). At Ras-el-Aioun we pitched our tents close to the Oued Seldja, which this year had plenty of water in it after the late rains. The storms must have been indeed heavy about here, to judge from the many uprooted tamarisk-trees and bushes we saw in midstream or deposited on the sand-spits, showing that the river must have gone considerably out of its course. The tamarisks are particularly fine about here, and evidently of great age. In the centre of a clump of these, a most picturesque spot, we noticed two crosses lately erected to the memory of some French soldiers who had died here last autumn, probably on the march from Gafsa to some western outpost. Passing by the Col de Seldja, a remarkable gorge through which the river of that name flows on its way to join the more important Oued Melah, we reached the neighbourhood of Oglet Alima about sunset. I had hoped to have found the Coronetted Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles coronatus*) again here, the spot where I found it last year, but was disappointed, not a single example of the species being visible during the two days that I spent

in the neighbourhood. I should think this was probably owing to the fact of water being plentiful further south, for, as I observed in my previous paper, the present species seemed merely to visit this locality for drinking purposes, its usual habitat no doubt being somewhat further south.

I may, perhaps, here mention that when at Biskra in the early part of March, and within a day's journey of that place, I saw some flocks of Sand-Grouse, which seemed very like *P. coronatus*. They may, however, have been *P. senegalus*, which species is not uncommon in that district.

Near Oglet Alima I obtained specimens of *Scotocerca saharae*, *Saxicola maesta*, *Pterocles arenarius*, and a few other species, but I did not find so many birds here as I did last year, when I was a month earlier, many of them having no doubt gone north. *Saxicola maesta*, however, was extremely plentiful here, and indeed throughout the country that I visited west of Gafsa, although nowhere else. I found several young birds of this species, some of which must have been quite six weeks old. They were scarcely distinguishable from the old birds, when flying, showing that the bird is an early breeder. I found no nests, although I tried several holes, into which I had seen the birds disappear. It seems, however, to be a favourite habit with this species to enter the rat and jerboa holes, with which the southern plains abound, in search of the insects to be found there. I noticed that this Chat sometimes utters its song when in the act of flying.

On the 8th April, after having given our Arabs a holiday, wound up by a hearty feast on roast lamb, to celebrate the close of the Ramadan fast, we retraced our steps eastward, camping that night about halfway between Ras-el-Aioun and Djebel Sota, and the following day we re-entered Gafsa before sundown.

The weather, which during the past few days had been fine and very hot, now changed again, and we came in for a regular gale from the N.W. Evidently we were destined this year to experience the extremes of climatic vicissitudes! However, we spent the next day quietly at Gafsa, allowing the gale to blow itself out, and on the 11th April we started

for the North, camping that evening near Sidi-Aich, and reaching Feriana the following day. At Feriana I found all the spring migrants in full force, and added a few specimens to my collection, after which we started for Kasrin.

Soon after our departure, and almost in the identical spot where I met with the species last year, I spied a pair of Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*); but although I attempted a careful stalk, I could not get within shot of the birds. Reaching Kasrin rather late in the evening, we were not sorry to find my second party already arrived and busy preparing for us. After dinner I arranged that my friends should leave early the following morning for the Djebel Selloum, in search of Barbary Wild Sheep, which they accordingly did, while I remained a day at Kasrin, wishing to secure specimens of *Corvus tingitanus* and *Sturnus unicolor*, both of which species seemed fairly plentiful about here. The ravines and rocky clefts in this neighbourhood were full of birds, mostly Rock-Doves (*Columba livia*) and Kestrels, both *Falco tinnunculus* and *F. cenchris*, no doubt breeding.

On the 15th April I joined my friends at Djebel Selloum, and remained there till the 18th, when I left for Djebel Semmama, on the return road to Tebessa, my friends having been obliged to leave a day earlier, as they wished to reach Tunis before the 20th April.

At Djebel Semmama I spent three days, and, notwithstanding very adverse weather, added several specimens to my collection, mostly of spring migrants. These abounded in the tamarisk and oleander bushes bordering the Oued Hattoub, which flows to the west of the mountain.

On the 22nd April we moved our camp to Khangat-Sloughi, halfway between Djebel Semmama and Tebessa. An important Roman town, or settlement must once have existed here, to judge from the ruins covering the ground in every direction, although I do not find it marked in any of my maps.

On the 24th we resumed our return journey, and passing the Algerio-Tunisian frontier at El Oubira, arrived at Tebessa in good time. The weather was now lovely, and the country

through which we passed beautifully fresh and green, after the late rains. Countless Rollers and Bee-eaters, resplendent in the bright sunshine, accompanied us throughout the day, while the pine-woods resounded with the merry song of the Chaffinch and other small birds, welcoming the advent of spring. Our journey, however, was over, and leaving Tebessa early the following morning, we got back to Tunis by midnight. The next day I spent at Hamman-Lif, near Tunis, collecting a few specimens, and on the 27th April I bid adieu to that town, and left for Sicily.

In the accompanying list of birds I have included a few species obtained by me near Tunis itself, and others collected for me, during my absence in the south, by my taxidermist, M. Blanc's assistant, whom I commissioned to visit the Tunis market daily in search of specimens for me.

List of Birds.

1. *TURDUS VISCIVORUS.*

I obtained specimens of the Mistle-Thrush at the end of March, and again towards the end of April, in the pine-woods to the north of Feriana, where this species no doubt breeds. It is, however, not common in the Regency.

2. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS.*

I met with the Rock-Thrush towards the end of April near Kasrin.

3. *MONTICOLA CYANUS.*

I found the Blue Rock-Thrush also in the neighbourhood of Kasrin and near Tebessa. It is common, and breeds in all the mountainous parts of the Regency.

4. *SAXICOLA GENANTHE.*

Plentiful throughout my journey.

5. *SAXICOLA AURITA.* (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 394.)

I met with the Black-eared Chat constantly during my journey this year, both singly and in pairs. This species seems to be much commoner in the Regency than the following one.

6. SAXICOLA STAPAZINA.

I met with the Russet Chat occasionally during my late journey, and more particularly towards the end of it, or after the middle of April. Last year, when in the Regency, and earlier in the season, I obtained a specimen of *S. melanoleuca*, with the broad black throat-band, so that it would appear that both forms occur in Tunis.

This degree of longitude, broadly speaking, seems to be the meeting-point of the eastern and western forms. In Italy, Prof. Giglioli tells me, both forms occur in the neighbourhood of Florence, which lies pretty nearly in the same degree of longitude as Tunis, *S. melanoleuca* becoming rarer as one goes west, and *S. stapazina* as one goes east, the former indeed being unrecorded from Genoa and the western Riviera, while the latter is unrecorded from Bari and the extreme east of the Peninsula.

In talking of these two Chats, it would perhaps be more correct to call them *species*, as they really seem sufficiently distinct to be separated. Besides the disparity in the breadth of the black throat-band, I notice the following differences between the two, viz. :—

- a. On the forehead in *S. stapazina* the black marking does not extend over and completely round the top of the culmen as it does in *S. melanoleuca*.
- b. The scapulars in the former are *light*, or cream-coloured, while in the latter they are *dark*, or jet-black.
- c. The *inside* of the wings in *S. stapazina* is very much lighter in colour than in *S. melanoleuca*.

In length of wing, and size generally, I find no differences between the two. The tail-marking varies so much in individuals of the same species that one can scarcely attach much, if any, importance to any difference in this respect between the two species, and the fact of there being more or less white or black may be merely a question of age.

Although the two forms are, I think, clearly separable, it is not impossible that they may interbreed, and that inter-

mediate forms may occur. In the Florence Natural History Museum, for instance, I have seen a specimen labelled *S. stapazina* ad. ♂, from Genoa, with the *narrow* black throat-band, but with *dark* scapulars, and with the inside of its wings *dark*. As this specimen, however, also possesses a peculiarly marked dark back, I think one would be justified in looking upon it as abnormal, and possibly a hybrid. Besides the opportunity afforded me, through the kindness of Prof. Giglioli, of comparing my specimens with those in the Florence Museum, I have also been able to examine those in the Turati collection at Milan, now being put in order, under the able supervision of Dr. Martorelli.

7. SAXICOLA LUGENS. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 370.)

I obtained specimens of the Pied Chat this year, both male and female, at Ras-el-Aioun, to the west of Gafsa. This species, however, seems to be rather rare in the Regency, this being the only occasion on which I met with it in Tunisia, although I had previously found it in the Algerian Sahara. It is a shy, retiring bird, evincing a partiality for desolate spots, particularly where there are marl cliffs, in which it no doubt finds suitable nesting-places.

8. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA.

I found the Whinchat near Tunis and at Feriana.

9. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA.

The Stonechat I also got at Feriana.

10. DAULIAS LUSCINIA.

Common at Gafsa and further north.

11. SYLVIA CINEREA.

The Whitethroat I met with constantly.

12. SYLVIA CURRUCA.

The Lesser Whitethroat I also met with, although not so often as the preceding species.

13. SYLVIA SUBALPINA. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 27.)

I obtained specimens of this Warbler in the pine-woods north of Feriana, but it is not common in the Regency.

14. *SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA*. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 22.)

The Spectacled Warbler I met with on several occasions, both in the north and south of the Regency. At Hamman-Lif, near Tunis, it is particularly abundant in spring, and breeds in the mimosa bushes of the gardens there.

15. *SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA*. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 29.)

I found this species near Kasrin, towards the end of April, in pairs and breeding.

16. *SYLVIA ORPHEA*.

Very abundant at Gafsa, and further north.

17. *PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS*.

Common at Gafsa and further north.

18. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS*.

Also common in the Gafsa oasis.

19. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX*.

Less common than the preceding two species.

20. *PHYLLOSCOPUS BONELLI*. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 59.)

I met with this species occasionally.

21. *HYPOLAIS PALLIDA*. (B. M. Cat. B. v. p. 82.)

I obtained specimens of the Olivaceous Warbler in two or three places, after the middle of April.

22. *AËDON GALACTODES*.

This species I also met with only towards the close of my journey, but once the spring passage had set in it was plentiful everywhere. At Hamman-Lif I counted as many as half a dozen, all together on the ground, within a yard or so of each other.

23. *ACROCEPHALUS TURDOIDES*.

I obtained a specimen of the Great Reed-Warbler on the banks of the Oued Hattoub.

24. *SCOTOCERCA SAHARÆ* (Loche). (B. M. Cat. B. vii. p. 214.)

This little bird seems to be strictly a desert species, never occurring far north of the Sahara. During my recent journey in Southern Tunisia, I met with it only on the plains to the

west of Gafsa, and there but sparingly. In the Algerian Sahara, however, and within a few miles of Biskra, I found it more plentiful, and my friends who visited the country south of the Chott Djerid also met with it constantly. It is a shy, timid little bird, and on the approach of danger hides in the middle of some scrub bush, from which it is not easily dislodged. I generally found it in pairs, and, judging from the condition of specimens obtained in the early part of April, it was then breeding.

25. *PARUS ULTRAMARINUS*, Bp.

Parus teneriffie. (B. M. Cat. B. viii. p. 14.)

This Tit was plentiful in many places, and I was somewhat surprised to find it as far south as Gafsa. *P. ledouci* I did not find; I believe it occurs only in the more northern and wooded parts of the Regency.

26. *TROGLODYTES PARVULUS*.

I found the Common Wren near Tunis.

27. *MOTACILLA FLAVA*.

Common in many places, and generally in flocks.

28. *MOTACILLA VIRIDIS*.

Also common, but generally in pairs, or threes and fours.

29. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS*.

Common both in the north and south.

30. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS*.

Also common in many places.

31. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS*.

I obtained specimens at Gafsa, and further north.

32. *ORIOLOUS GALBULA*.

A common spring migrant.

33. *LANIUS ALGERIENSIS*.

I have specimens of this Shrike from Tunis, where I have shot the bird within a short walk of that town. It is common throughout the north of the Regency, but I have never met with it in the south, where it seems to be entirely replaced by *L. dealbatus*. Its habitat proper is no doubt the Tell

region, and I believe it does not occur far, if at all, south of this, where the country becomes less mountainous, and the alfaplain commences. Specimens of this species from Algeria and Marocco are said to be darker than those from Tunis; but having only a very small series of examples in my collection, I am unable to speak on this point. I believe there is only one recorded instance of the Algerian Shrike having occurred north of the Mediterranean, viz. that of the capture of a bird of this species, under somewhat peculiar circumstances, in July 1892, near Florence (Giglioli, Icon. Avifauna Ital. sp. 80, fasc. 51). The specimen is now in the Florence Museum.

34. LANIUS POMERANUS.

The Woodchat was plentiful in most of the places we visited, after the commencement of the spring passage. I found it breeding towards the end of April, near Kasrin.

35. TELEPHONUS SENEGALUS. (B. M. Cat. B. viii. p. 124.)

I have a specimen of the Tchagra Shrike obtained near Tunis.

36. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.

A common spring migrant.

37. MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.

The Pied Flycatcher is also fairly common.

38. HIRUNDO RUFULA.

M. Blanc procured me a specimen of this species, and told me that he receives a few examples of it every year for preparation.

39. COTILE RIPARIA.

Fairly common in the north of Tunis. *C. rupestris*, I believe, is also found in the Regency, but I have not yet met with it myself.

40. PASSER ITALIÆ. (B. M. Cat. B. xii. p. 315.)

I include under this heading two specimens, *apparently* of this species, which I obtained during my late journey; but as neither of them has the perfect or typical plumage of *P. italiæ*, as found in Italy in spring, I am not sure of their

identity. It is possible they may be hybrids, either between *P. domesticus* and *P. salicicola*, or between *P. domesticus* and *P. italiae*, most likely the former, one of the specimens showing the dark back of *P. salicicola*. As mentioned in my previous notes, *P. salicicola* is common in the Regency.

41. PASSER DOMESTICUS.

I obtained specimens of this species at Feriana and other places.

42. LOXIA CURVIROSTRA.

I obtained specimens of the Common Crossbill, both ♂ and ♀, in the pine-woods north of Feriana, but nowhere else, and do not think it is widely distributed throughout the Regency. I should, however, conclude that it breeds there, as I found the species in pairs at the end of March.

43. EMBERIZA CIA. (B. M. Cat. B. xii. p. 537.)

The Meadow-Bunting I obtained near Tunis.

44. CHERSOPHILUS MARGARITÆ (Koenig).

I obtained a single specimen, a male, of this somewhat rare species, which may perhaps be called the Tunisian form of *C. duponti*, near Saharidj, about halfway between Feriana and Gafsa. Dr. Sharpe (Cat. B. xiii. p. 526) has united it to *C. duponti*; but it seems to differ from the Algerian form in the colouring of its plumage, being somewhat paler and more rufous, particularly on the back, which in *C. duponti* has a black-brown shade, entirely absent in *C. margaritæ*. The whitish fringe of the back-feathers is also more pronounced, giving the bird a decided mottled appearance. I have not been able to compare my specimen, and others that I have from Tunis, with the Spanish form of *C. duponti*.

Although the species is no doubt rather a rare one, and specimens of it are not often obtained, I am inclined to think that it is not quite so uncommon as it is generally supposed to be, and that it is owing to the extraordinary capacity the bird has of hiding itself that it escapes notice and is not more often got.

My friend Dr. Abelli, a careful observer, who was travel-

ling with me, and who, in fact, shot the only specimen I obtained of the species, told me at that time that his attention was first attracted to it by a peculiar low whistling note proceeding from a scrubby bush close by, and that it was only after waiting patiently a considerable length of time that he eventually caught sight of the bird and shot it. He then went after what he thought must be the female, which he had heard whistling in answer to her mate, not far off; but although he searched diligently in every direction, he failed to find it. I myself subsequently, on two different occasions, together with my friend, listened to this peculiar whistle, but could not discover whence it proceeded; and I therefore cannot speak conclusively, or affirm positively that it was uttered by a bird of this species, although I have no reason to doubt it was so. The whistle in question is exceedingly soft and melodious, and is composed sometimes of two, at others of three notes, and in an ascending scale. Once heard, it cannot be mistaken. The country whence my specimen came, and where we subsequently heard the whistle, was open plain, covered with wild thyme, always more or less green. On the dry desert-plains further south we never heard the bird, and I believe it does not occur in the extreme south.

No doubt this species is correctly placed in the genus *Chersophilus*, and no longer as *Alæmon*. (See Sharpe, B. M. Cat. B. xiii. p. 525.)

45. *ALAUDA CRISTATA* THECKLÆ.

Galerita thecklæ, Sharpe, B. M. Cat. B. xiii. p. 633.

I introduce the Crested Lark, although mentioned in my previous list, wishing to observe that I consider the Crested Lark of North Tunis should be referred to *A. thecklæ* (Brehm). I have carefully compared a good series of Tunisian examples with some from the south of Spain, and find them almost identical. They differ from the typical *A. cristata* in the following respects, viz.:—In size they are smaller, and with a shorter bill. In general colouring they are rather darker, and of a grey-brown instead of a

uniform brown shade, the back in particular presenting a more mottled appearance, owing to the centre of the feathers being darker and the edgings lighter than in *A. cristata*. The underparts generally are lighter, and with a decided yellowish tinge instead of brownish. The spots on the throat and chest are more numerous and more distinct. The crest-feathers are more pointed. The outer tail-feathers are lighter and more rufous, and all the tail-feathers more or less rufescently fringed at the tips. The ordinary European *A. cristata* may also occur in the north of Tunis in winter-time, although I myself have not met with it.

46. *ALAUDA CRISTATA PALLIDA*, subsp. nov.

I met with a pale form of Crested Lark this year in the south of Tunis, which I had not found in my previous journey, when I was under the impression that *A. cristata* was entirely replaced in the south by *A. macrorhyncha*. In my late journey, however, I found that this was not quite the case, as *A. cristata* occurs there in a pale form, although not very plentifully, *A. macrorhyncha* being always the commonest Crested Lark of the southern districts.

This pale Crested Lark may perhaps be referred to the sandy-coloured race, which appears to be found in Palestine and Asia Minor (Sharpe, B. M. Cat. B. xiii. p. 621), although I would observe that the South Tunis form does not differ in size from that of the North, and is therefore not *A. magna* (Hume), which is very similar to, if not identical with, *A. macrorhyncha*.

The Crested Larks, it is generally admitted, are extremely difficult to divide, owing to the various forms running into each other so much. Of those occurring in the Tunisian Regency, *A. macrorhyncha* may perhaps reasonably be separated from the others on account of its larger size, and much larger and somewhat differently shaped bill, coupled with the fact of its being found in the same districts as the pale *A. cristata*, although even here we find individuals differing somewhat among themselves, and a considerable variation between the extreme types. As regards the other Crested

Larks to be met with in Tunisia, and which might perhaps, for convenience' sake, be briefly divided into three classes or races, the northern, southern, and desert races, the difference seems to be solely one of plumage-colour, varying according to the natural characteristics of the localities in which the different forms occur. Thus, in the case of the northern form, which inhabits regions where the climate is almost European, with abundant moisture and vegetation, and where the soil and surroundings generally are of a more sombre hue than further south, the general tone of colour is darkish, or a grey-brown. In the southern form, which inhabits districts where the climate is drier, where vegetation is scanty, and the country more arid, we have a lighter or buff shade of colour; while in *A. isabellina*, to be found only in the far south, and in actual proximity of the desert, the plumage is still paler and of an isabelline hue. The transition, or variation in plumage-colour, however, seems to be gradual and uninterrupted, and the impossibility of any delimitation, or of positively fixing the limits of each zone, is apparent, as we should find more difference between individuals of the same zone but extreme opposite limits than between individuals of different zones but adjoining limits; for instance, we should find more difference between a specimen obtained from the extreme north and one obtained from the extreme south of the northern zone, than we should between the latter and one from the extreme north of the southern or adjoining zone. An interesting exception to the general change in plumage-colour between the three forms is noticeable in the tail-feathers, which, with the exception of the centre ones, maintain the same shades of colour throughout the entire transition.

I have examined a good series of all the three forms of which I have spoken, and I am inclined to think that there is quite as much reason to divide the northern and southern races as there is to separate the desert form *A. isabellina*, although perhaps one would not think so at first sight, or when comparing merely extreme types.

Dealing with these three forms of Crested Larks one

might perhaps do well to adopt the *trinomial* system, and call them *A. cristata thecklæ*, *A. c. pallida*, and *A. c. isabellina*.

47. *ALAUDA CRISTATA ISABELLINA* (Bp.).

This pale desert form of Crested Lark is only to be found in the extreme south of the Regency, so much so that I myself did not meet with it in the country that I visited, and my specimens were all obtained by my second party, south of the Chott Djerid, viz. at Sobria, El Faoura, Bir-Zouita, and Bir-Sliman. Some of my specimens are remarkably pale.

48. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*.

Common throughout the north of Tunisia, and also to be found on the high plateaux, although less plentifully. I have even obtained specimens in the Algerian Sahara, near Biskra, which somewhat surprised me.

49. *AMMOMANES CINCTURA* (Gould); B. M. Cat. B. xiii. p. 644.

This little Desert-Lark seems to be confined to the extreme south of the Regency, and its range is very limited. I only obtained a few specimens through my friends who went south of the Chott. They found it between El Faoura and Bir-Zouita.

50. *CYPSELUS AFFINIS*, Gray.

Micropus affinis, Hart. B. M. Cat. B. xvi. p. 453.

This was another interesting addition to my collection this year. I observed the species only on one occasion, viz. near the Djebel Sota, to the west of Gafsa, where I secured three specimens, male and female. I should think it probably breeds there, as I found it both on my outward and return journey, in the same locality. My second party obtained a specimen of this Swift further south, near Sobria. Dr. Koenig mentions having found it on the Djebel Meda, near Gabes (Cab. J. f. O. 1892).

51. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS*.

Common in the north during spring.

52. *CAPRIMULGUS ÆGYPTIUS*. (B. M. Cat. B. xvi. p. 562.)

I obtained a specimen of this species near Gafsa, a remark-

ably pale example. It is not at all common, I understand, in the Regency.

53. *IYNX TORQUILLA*.

A common spring migrant.

54. *CORACIAS GARRULA*.

Exceedingly plentiful during the spring passage. Rollers and Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) were constantly to be seen after the beginning of April.

55. *STRIX FLAMMEA*.

Not uncommon in Tunis and other parts of the Regency in a pale form.

56. *SCOPS GIU*.

I obtained a specimen of this little Owl at Gafsa, and repeatedly heard the mournful note of this species while in the south. It evinces a great partiality for palm-trees, and might well be called the Palm-Owl.

57. *GYPVS FVLVVS*.

I obtained a specimen at the Djebel Ressay, near Tunis.

58. *CIRCVS CYANEVS*.

I obtained specimens at Ras-el-Aioun and near Tunis, where it is fairly abundant.

59. *CIRCVS MACRVRS*. (B. M. Cat. B. i. p. 67.)

More common than the preceding species.

60. *BVTEO DESERTORVM*.

I have a specimen from the neighbourhood of Tunis.

61. *MILVVS MVRANS*.

One of the commonest birds in the Regency. I have sometimes counted as many as a score of them together. It is very fearless, and will often swoop down within a few yards of one when hunting for food.

62. *ELANVS CÆRVLEVS*.

I have a specimen from Tunis.

63. *FALCO FELDEGGI*. (B. M. Cat. B. i. p. 389.)

I have two specimens of the Lanner, procured for me by

M. Blanc, who tells me that it is of frequent occurrence and breeds in the Regency.

64. *FALCO SUBBUTEO*.

Fairly common.

65. *PANDION HALIAËTUS*.

I have a specimen obtained near Tunis. I am told the species is fairly common in winter.

66. *ARDEA CINEREA*.

Common in all the marshes of the north, and on the borders of the Tunis Lake.

67. *ARDEA RALLOIDES*.

Common in the north of the Regency.

68. *ARDEA MINUTA*.

Common in the north of the Regency.

69. *NYCTICORAX GRISEUS*.

Common in the north of the Regency.

70. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*.

Common in the north of the Regency.

71. *CICONIA NIGRA*.

A specimen procured for me by M. Blanc.

72. *TADORNA CORNUTA*.

I have a specimen from Tunis.

73. *ANAS BOSCAS*.

Common.

74. *ANAS ANGUSTIROSTRIS*, Ménétr.

The Marbled Duck, although by no means common in the Regency, is often to be met with, particularly during the spring passage. M. Blanc tells me he obtains specimens every year.

75. *CHAULELASMUS STREPERUS*.

A specimen obtained for me in Tunis.

76. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*.

Common.

77. QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.

Common.

78. QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA.

Common.

79. DAFILA ACUTA.

Common.

80. MARECA PENELOPE.

Common.

81. FULIGULA FERINA.

Common.

82. NYROCA FERRUGINEA.

Common.

83. TURTUR COMMUNIS.

Common during spring passage.

84. PTEROCLES ALCHATA (Linn.).

I obtained only one specimen of this Sand-Grouse, which my friends got, about the middle of March, south of the Chott Djerid. I am told it is very abundant at certain seasons.

85. PTEROCLES SENEGALUS (Linn.).

This species they met with about the end of March at Tarfaoui, to the N.W. of the Chott, and obtained specimens for me.

86. PORZANA MARUETTA.

Specimens obtained for me in Tunis.

87. PORZANA BAILLONI.

Specimens obtained for me in Tunis.

88. GALLINULA CHLOROPUS.

Common.

89. FULICA ATRA.

Common.

90. GRUS COMMUNIS.

Common.

91. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA.*

I obtained specimens in the south.

92. *ÆGIALITIS CURONICA.*

I obtained specimens in the south.

93. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA.*

I obtained this Ringed Plover near Tunis.

94. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS.*

Common.

Specimens of the following species were obtained for me in Tunis :—

95. PHALAROPUS HYPERBO- REUS.	103. HYDROCHELIDON HY- BRIDA.
96. GALLINAGO MAJOR.	104. HYDROCHELIDON LEU- COPTERA.
97. TRINGA ALPINA.	105. LARUS RIDIBUNDUS.
98. TRINGA SUBARQUATA.	106. LARUS GELASTES, Licht.
99. MACHETES PUGNAX.	107. LARUS CACHINNANS, Pall.
100. TOTANUS STAGNATILIS, Bechst.	108. PUFFINUS KUHLI (Boie).
101. TOTANUS FUSCUS.	109. PODICEPS CRISTATUS.
102. STERNA ANGLICA.	110. PODICEPS NIGRICOLLIS.

VII.—*On the Birds of the Philippine Islands.*—Part III.*
The Mountains of the Province of Isabella, in the extreme North-east of Luzon. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT. *With Field-Notes by JOHN WHITEHEAD.*

(Plates IV. & V.)

MR. WHITEHEAD'S third collection, formed in the Province of Isabella, arrived in London on the 5th of October, and though the number of birds collected was comparatively small—somewhat less than forty—several remarkably interesting forms were included, two being new to science.

Perhaps the most interesting novelty is a second species of my new Timaliine genus *Zosterornis* (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 510). This

* For Part II. see 'The Ibis,' 1894, p. 501.